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HELPERS AMONG US

Helpers Among Us - Lisa Williams helps with school supplies drive in Somerville

JOYCE WESTNER | STAFF WRITER

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Winchester resident Lisa Kalner Williams picks up clothing and school supplies for MAMAS, a Somerville organization. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO/JOYCE WESTNER

Lisa Kalner Williams claims some of Facebook's Everything Is Fr
Winchester items, but not for herself. The Hillside Avenue reside

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up clothing and school supplies for MAMAS, a Somerville organization that has their Free Store twice a year.

Originally, they only had clothes, but Williams convinced them to do school supplies, especially since she needed to get rid of her own kids' supplies. She not only believes in helping people, but Williams loves to know things are getting reused.

"I'm very passionate about clothing waste," says Williams.

Lisa Kalner Williams sorts donations in her basement. COURTESY PHOTO/LISA KALNER WILLI

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She used to teach ESL at one of the Somerville schools and says she has “a soft spot for those kids.”

Last year when helping get ready for their October free store, Williams decided she wanted to get more involved so she helps sort donations brought to the Connexion Church in Somerville each Saturday.

“I take clothes home to launder — I have a basement full of them! And I had to buy bigger storage boxes for them,” she says.

Donate today!

Williams emphasizes that “this is not a charity — it’s neighbors helping neighbors. It’s all about solidarity.”

Winchester residents can be generous in helping her efforts, she adds.

“One time I went to pick up one of five items on Everything Is Free [pencils] and the woman giving them away invited me to come back the next day and get tons of school supplies,” she says. “A Somerville store called Make & Mend carries second hand art supplies. They gave us tons of them!”

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The MAMAS Free Store. COURTESY PHOTO/LISA KALNER WILLIAMS

"Boston has a large immigrant population and I asked myself what they might need — we try not to buy anything," she says, although she buys rubber bands to wrap around pencils.

The next Free Store is on Aug. 9, and anyone interested in donating school supplies or clothes can send an email to mamasfreestore@gmail.com for more information.

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On a cold and blustery day, two post-graduate Winchester High School students and others stood outside the Stop & Shop inviting folks to buy luminary kits as part of the Unite with Light event planned for Sunday, Dec. 14. The successful program was started by Mairin Norton, a high-schooler who

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Thanksgiving food drive

Standish Lane resident Alisa Dong has only lived in town for about four years, but she's already immersed in helping people. And she wants residents to help her provide Thanksgiving Day meals for local food-insecure residents. A member of the town's Family Action Network (FAN), Dong is its

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Helpers Among Us — Coaches volunteer to bring on the cheer

You probably know that cheerleaders appear at sporting events to cheer on their teams, but you might not know that cheerleading is a sport in its own right. Or that Winchester Cheer coaches volunteer to help girls and boys learn and compete in cheerleading. Middlesex Street resident Erin Black is

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Helpers Among Us - Patti Reilly wants your children's clothes

Although Patti Reilly opened her boutique, Jules, about a year and a half ago, she's already discovered the generosity of Winchester residents. That's why she and her husband, John, decided to offer a 10% discount on one item to anyone who brings in "gently used children's clothing.

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Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

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FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

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EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On

NEWS

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

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The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and

Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

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